

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USBERL 02530 261512Z

55

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07

PA-01 PRS-01 /103 W

----- 010959

R 261430Z NOV 76

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3496

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 2530

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PGOV, WB

SUBJ: ELECTRIC POWER PROJECT CONTINUES TO MAKE NEWS

1. SUMMARY: CONTROVERSY OVER NEW BERLIN POWER-PLANT PROJECT HAS SHARPENED THIS WEEK WITH ROUND-THE-CLOCK OCCUPATION OF SITE BY RADICAL DEMONSTRATORS. SENAT HAS SO FAR LEFT OCCUPIERS IN CONTROL OF SITE. PRELIMINARY WORK AT SITE HAS BEEN BLOCKED DURING PAST WEEK.
END SUMMARY.

2. AS REPORTED REFTEL (USBERLIN 2173) SENAT REACHED COALITION-STRAINING DECISION OCTOBER 12, AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS OF INTERNAL AGONIZING, ON LOCATION FOR A NEW 600-MEGAWATT CONVENTIONAL POWER PLANT, POWER FROM WHICH IS ESTIMATED TO BE NEEDED IN WINTER OF 1980. DECISION WAS TO SITE THE PLANT IN THE SPANDAU FOREST, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE CUTTING OF A DISPUTED NUMBER OF THOUSANDS OF TREES, RATHER THAN AT WATERFRONT SITE OF AN EXISTING POWER PLANT. SINCE THAT DECISION, A COALITION OF CITIZEN GROUPS OPPOSING LOCATION OF THE PLANT IN THE FOREST, OR IN SPANDAU, OR ANYWHERE AT ALL,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USBERL 02530 261512Z

HAS BEEN STAGING WEEKEND DEMONSTRATION MARCHES TO THE SITE.

3. ON WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 20, OPPOSITONISTS OCCUPIED THE SITE, BUILT A SHACK FOR SHELTER, DECORATED IT WITH COMMUNIST FLAGS, AND HAVE MAINTAINED PERMANENT PRESENCE WITH CLAIMED GOAL OF PREVENTING THE CUTTING OF ANY TREES. ACTION GROUPS APPEAR TO CONSIST OF PEACEFUL TYPES OPPOSED TO VIOLENCE, PLUS REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS COMMUNIST YOUTH FACTIONS WHO WOULD WELCOME VIOLENCE. THERE IS NO CONSENSUS AS TO TACTICS BETWEEN THESE GROUPS AND EACH FOLLOWS ITS OWN INCLINATIONS. COMMUNIST GROUP APPEARS TO DOMINATE THE SCENE DURING THE WEEK WHEN MORE RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS ARE AT WORK. THERE HAS BEEN MINOR DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY AND OCCUPIERS HAVE TWICE BLOCKED START OF DRILLING OPERATIONS TO TEST SOIL STRUCTURE. SENAT HAS TAKEN FULLY RELAXED STANCE, MAKING NO EFFORT TO ENFORCE LAW AND FOREST ORDINANCES BEING VIOLATED, AND POLICE ON SCENE HAVE CONFINED THEMSELVES TO DISCUSSING AND DRINKING COFFEE WITH DISSIDENTS. GOVERNING MAYOR HAS STATED THERE WILL BE NO "NACHT UND NEBEL" ACTION AGAINST DEMONSTRATORS.

4. A DELEGATION FROM THE ORIGINAL PROTEST COALITION MET WITH GOVERNING MAYOR NOVEMBER 25 TO MAKE THEIR POINTS, INCLUDING REQUEST FOR ONE-YEAR POSTPONEMENT OF PROJECT.

THEY DESCRIBED COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN AFFAIR AS UNWELCOME. ACCORDING TO PRESS, GOVERNING MAYOR DID NOT INCLUDE THE RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS IN THE CONFERENCE AND BY MIDAFTERNOON HAD NOT INFORMED THEM OF THE EVENT, REFLECTING APPARENT CONTINUING FRICTION BETWEEN SCHUETZ AND SENATOR FOR ECONOMICS LUEDER ON POWER PLANT ISSUE.

5. THE PROJECT IS IN A COMPLEX LEGAL STATUS AT PRESENT; NUMEROUS OFFICIAL PERMITS ARE BEING PROCESSED; SALE OF LAND FROM SENAT TO BEWAG IS NOT YET COMPLETED; MOST OF THE SENAT DEPARTMENTS ARE INVOLVED ONE WAY OR ANOTHER; THE PARLIAMENT HAS PASSED AN ORDINANCE PERMITTING CUTTING OF THE TREES; PROTESTERS HAVE FILED COURT SUIT AGAINST CUTTING TREES, ETCETERA. PRESUMABLY THE SENAT WILL BE PREPARED TO USE FORCE AS NECESSARY TO CLEAR THE SITE NCE THE BUREAUCRATIC AND LEGAL SITUATION IS STRAIGHTENED OUT SOME-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USBERL 02530 261512Z

WHAT, HOPEIN NO DOUBT THAT WINTER WILL IN THE MEANTIME DAMPEN SPIRITS OF THE OCCUPIERS. BUT IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, THIS ISSUE WILL CONTINUE TO BE GRIST FOR THE PRESS AND A PROBLEM FOR THE SENAT FOR SOMETIME.
GEORGE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, CONSTRUCTION, ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USBERL02530
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760442-0303
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761110/aaaaaiua.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 APR 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <19 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELECTRIC POWER PROJECT CONTINUES TO MAKE NEWS
TAGS: ENRG, PGOV, WB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006